

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM JAN- UARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1918 (NO. 54; NOS. 45705 TO 45971).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This fifty-fourth inventory represents a war-time period and is small in numbers, but some very interesting and it is hoped valuable introductions are included in its pages.

Perhaps the most notable collections included are those made by Prof. F. C. Reimer, whose studies of pear-blight and whose search after a resistant species of *Pyrus* are among the most interesting occurrences in the field of plant pathology. Prof. Reimer, at considerable financial sacrifice and personal risk, made a thorough canvass of the pear situation in China and collected as a result of his work what is certainly the most comprehensive assortment of oriental forms and species of the genus *Pyrus* (Nos. 45821 to 45850) which has ever been introduced. He believes it includes the material from which in all probability will be produced, by selection and breeding with the European pears, the varieties resistant to fire-blight which are adapted for stocks because of their freedom from this disease. He thinks from it will come the hardy varieties of pears which in time will be grown in the northern Great Plains region, where pear growing is now impossible, and he finds that a few varieties of these oriental pears are sufficiently good in quality to warrant their use without improvement in those regions where the fire-blight has hitherto made pear growing unprofitable.

Pyrus betulaefolia \times *phaeocarpa* he found growing on dry hill-sides, on the plains, and even in ponds where for a large part of the year water covered its roots a foot deep. This hybrid is found from extreme northern China to the Yangtze River. This may be useful in America as a stock, since it is used in this way in China. It is unfortunately not blight resistant, however, but since this disease does not exist, so far as known, in Europe it may be more valuable there.

Pyrus calleryana Prof. Reimer gathered from its northernmost limit, central Chosen (Korea). *Pyrus phaeocarpa* becomes a tree